No. 25.

JUDGE THEM AS A WHOLE!

And consider before voting if you can risk a return to the dull times between 1874 and 1878.

Even those journals that pretend to have been converted by the logic of Mr. Blake's promises that "taxation" should be maintained if the Liberals obtain control of the Government, cannot carry out the idea in its entirety. This, that and the next one has a special industry which it assails now as it did all up to a few weeks ago. One promises that Canadian coal miners will be placed at the mercy of their American rivals; another that the protection to the cotton factories shall go; still another insists that the woollen mills must be put on a free trade footing, while all are agreed that the sugar refiners are to be utterly cast out. They all intensify the belief that the Liberal idea is to destroy the National Policy in detail.

When Mr. Davies, the Liberal leader in Prince Edward Island, was told that the Montreal *Herald* interpreted Mr. Blake's words as indicating that established manufactures had nothing to fear if the Government that had upheld them against constant assault for eight years was defeated, he openly ridiculed the notion, and sneered at the *Herald* as a recent turncoat whose assistance could be accepted, but whose voice would not be heard in the councils of the true believers.

Mr. Jones, the head of Mr. Blake's party in Nova Scotia, makes no pretence of being anything but an absolute free trader, and is an avowed secessionist. Mr. Ellis, the Grit candidate in St. John, N.B., is a free trader and a self-announced believer in annexation.

In Montreal West, the constituency of all the Dominion that has most largely invested in manufactures under the National Policy, we have the spectacle of a Liberal candidate boasting of his adherence to his previously stated free trade sentiments, and advocating an increase in the duty on goods consumed in small quantity, that those in wide use, and whose manufacture gives employment to many workmen, may be admitted free, that, in fact, legislation should be had to encourage foreign manufacturers at the expense of our own.

But it is in Ontario that the cloven hoof is shown in all its ugliness. There we have the London *Advertiser*, edited by Hon. David Mills, a former minister in the Liberal Cabinet, no later than the 31st ultimo, a week after Mr. Blake had publicly read his tariff platform, saying

> There is not a manufacturer or railroad employee who will not be benefited by the removal of the coal tax, however much it may be found necessary to retain the general taxation of the N. P.

That means that the Canadian coal mines are to be left to themselves, and may do the best they can in the fight with the Pennsylvania collieries, though the latter enjoy a protective duty of 75 cts a ton on all coal going into the United States. There are invested in Nova Scotia coal mines twenty millions of dollars, and their operation gives employment to ten thousand men. But all this capital may be rendered unproductive and the workmen may go to the United States, or to the poor house, because of the Liberal hate of the National Policy and those who benefit by it.

It has been proved before that the protective duty on coal in Canada does not affect the cost to the consumer, that the American combination of mine-owners suit their prices to the incidence of competition, and meet as far as they may the Canadian product in its own territory. Proof of this is in the following, quoted from the Boston *Herald* of the 2nd instant:—

> In the coal trade there has been no advance in the retail prices here. There is still a good deal of coal coming forward, in spite of all stories to the contrary. The Reading's eamers are bringing as usual while there is also coal coming from New York. The prices of coal at retail here are still about as follows for coal delivered to the domestic consumers:—

Burning egg and furnace	$6 50@	$6 75
Lehigh egg and furnace	6 00@	6 25
White ash stove	6 50@	7 00
Lehigh stove	6 75@	7 00
Franklin stove	8 00@	9 00

On the same day the same class of coal, from the same mines, delivered under the same conditions, was quoted at Montreal as follows:—

Anthracite, stove	$6 50
Anthracite, chestnut	6 25
Anthracite, egg	6 00

Practically, it will be seen, the duty does not affect the price of this commodity as between Montreal and Boston. Though the latter is nearer the centre of production, and has open communication by water the year through, its people pay the same rates for domestic coal as those of Montreal, and as Montreal would do if the duty was taken off. But for all this the Nova Scotia miners are to be punished—because they have opposed the Liberals.

Then a day or two later we have this same *Advertiser* saying:—

> "The laboring classes all over the Dominion may look, and may perhaps not look in vain to the Liberal leader for a lowering of the exorbitant duties on the lower grades of cottons and woollens."

This is, we suppose, especially intended to exasperate those towns that have established in them cotton mills and woollen factories, the fruits of the National Policy. The men who are employed in these industries, the merchants who supply their wants, and the wholesalers from whom they in turn purchase, the farmers who find a market for their perishable products, and the tradesmen who are given work wherever a centre of population establishes itself, are all to suffer. Take the cotton mills out of Valleyfield, or Cornwall, or Coaticook or Magog, or the woollen factories out of Sherbrooke or Almonte—and these are but representative towns—and what would be the effect on their general prosperity? How long before vacant houses would stare upon every street? Or workmen be driven to a land where home prosperity is looked after first, last and all the time? Yet this is what a Liberal lieutenant tells us the workmen may expect from the Liberals.

Then the Guelph *Mercury*, edited by Mr. Innes, another Liberal M.P., on the 13th ult., quotes and approves of Mr. Blake's tariff declaration as follows:—

> What is the policy that Mr. Blake has laid down for himself in this respect, and which has been adopted by the Liberal party as their platform? We give it in his own words as follows:—
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> We declare that articles of such prime necessity as fuel and breadstuffs should be free; that the sugar duties should be so adjusted as to relieve the consumer from some part of the enormous extra price he is now liable to pay to a few refiners; that the exorbitant and unequal duties on the lower grades of cottons and woollens should be so changed as to make them fair to the masses.
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> The principle embodied in these proposals is, to our mind, the right and true one, and which in the end must prevail.

This Liberal leopard has not changed his spots at the behest of Mr. Blake. Mr. Mills assails the coal, the cotton and the woollen industries. Mr. Innes does the same, but attacks also the flour millers and the sugar refiners, on grounds that have time and again been proved untenable. Mr. Drummond has effectively destroyed the contention that the price of Canadian refined sugar is higher because the work is done by Canadian workmen. Everyone knows that sugar to-day is cheaper than ever before in the history of our market.

The record of our flour trade shows that we can and do compete with our rivals in foreign markets on better than equal terms, which means that the flour duties, while they cause large amounts of wheat to be ground in Canadian mills that would otherwise pay toll to Minneapolis, do not raise the price to consumers. Take Newfoundland, for instance, a neutral market, equally near to the producing centres of Canada and the United States, and where no other country is a practical competitor, and what do we find? That in 1885 (the last year for which we have complete returns) there were imported from Canada 167,182 barrels of flour, and from the United States only 135,481 barrels. At the present moment our merchants are shipping to the island thousands of barrels, and by the long route of the Intercolonial, so that our people have the double advantage of producing and handling this merchandise, and employing their ships in its sea carriage. But this is contrary to the theorisings of Liberal *doctrinaires*, and, if in their power, they will uphold the theory and kill the trade.

There are here openly threatened, five of the most important industries of the Dominion, coal and cotton, flour and woollen and sugar, in each of which millions are invested, and upon each of which thousands depend for a livelihood, and a score of towns for their chief business. This is not done by common scribblers, without weight or authority, but by men who have been preferred to prominent place in the Liberal party, men who speak as prophets to the mass. Is it to be wondered that those over whom the sword is thus held refuse to believe Mr. Blake's studied utterances, that can be and are construed in so many diverse ways by his own friends?

The people have still to choose between Liberal enemies and Conservative friends of home industrial development.